

November 25, 1955

Dear Bruce:

I was delighted to hear from you. I have been hoping for some time to have your extended comments on the draft I sent you, but perhaps I misunderstood. But this hasn't been the bottleneck; I simply have had the most horrible time all year just trying to keep up with daily affairs, and feel rather like Alice in her race with the Red (or was it White) Queen. When I could get a few minutes, I have been poring over my notes (they are almost unintelligible to me now) and trying to summarize the pedigrees to complete the tables. I agree it is about time to stop temporizing, and I will do my best, such as it is. But my affairs have been especially frantic the last couple of months-- my father has been critically ill in hospital, and I've had to take time to go east to see him, and a few weeks ago we moved out of Genetics to the new Bact. building, just for a few months while they do the long awaited remodeling of our lab. in Genetics.

At any rate, I don't think I have much to add to the trails story, having done very few experiments since our last correspondence. I just have to admit that from my own data on SW-666, I could reach no very definite conclusions as to the identity of "E"; and you may very well have done better. I tried for quite a while to identify E cells by their hoped for motility in viscous media (methocel solutions) but got no definite result there. Have you looked for E cells in a SW-666 x- system yourself? (I mean, of course, a phenotypic discrimination).

As to publication, I am very sorry that I have held you up so long (though perhaps you share my horror of putting together this sort of data for print) and it might be unfair for me to restrain you. I would be delighted if we could get our respective mss. together, but I feel rather strongly that one, at least, of the papers ought to be in Genetics. Can I budge you on that. Do you think there might still be some possibility of joining forces? I would leave it to you whether you think you can draft a joint contribution that would embody the sense, content and style of our respective drafts-- if you think so, I would be very happy to consider that further. There are three alternatives:

- 1) Such a joint paper (if you think you can reconcile our existing versions.
- 2.) Separate papers, jointly presented-- in Genetics?
- 3) Separate papers, separately presented, presumably in JGM and Genetics respectively.

As to 3), I would say only that the fact of our collaboration has already been recorded in the various S's, S&L's, L&S's and L's by way of preliminary accounts; there might be as much virtue in reaching two audiences.

But the main point is to get this ~~matter~~ out one way or another! If either

of us could produce a finished ms., perhaps it would provoke the other to emulate him (i.e., you).

I didn't understand one item in your letter: what means: "...as the level for discriminating E from non-E"? Did you intend to write in a ~~number~~ number?

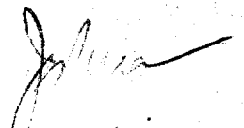
My regards to the Bernsteins and thanks to her for the culture, which has been filed.

Well, let me know what your (by now long considered) opinion will be on 1-2-3 above. At any rate, do not let me hold you up any longer: if you are ready to publish on your own, and would prefer not to wait for me any longer, don't hold back. I honestly don't know when I will be able to complete my end of the writing, perhaps I could by the end of the year (considering all known interferences in sight).

As to lab., I've been almost a stranger to it since the summer. I'm trying to clean up some loose ends on conjugal pairs, and to construct some diploid stocks to use for routine crossing, but this has been frustratingly slow. Iino has been polishing up phase variation, and has pretty well nailed down the H locus as the site of the "change in state". I hope you're not the kind of friend<sup>2</sup> or correspondent that demands a none-for-one exchange. If Esther or I haven't written (should that be hasn't?), it's for weariness rather than indifference. It has been our special lament not to have seen you for so long, but (as you may not get another from us in time) Happy Christmas anyhow.

Do give my regards to Felix too, should you see him.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Wearily, as usual.



\* P.S. A rather large ~~team~~ team in Vet. Sci. - Entomology, he is going to go into those mixed up claims by Bory + Wolf, Cuzi, and Felsenfeld on the "transduction" of TVi (which I strongly suspect is a selection of spontaneous variants. Have you ever discussed this with him?